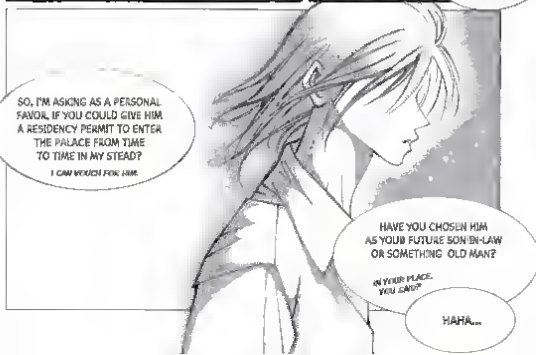
Seyoung Kim
Boy Princess
3

WHO'S THAT BOY? I HAVEN'T SEEN HIM AROUND HERE BEFORE.

HE IS A YOUNG FELLA FROM THE NEIGHBORING ERIN KINGDOM. HE'S SKILLED WITH HORSES SO I HIRED HIM.
THAT'S THE KINGDOM OF PRINCE JED'S WIFE, PRINCESS ELENA.
DOES HE HAVE A PASSPORT AND RESIDENCY PERMIT?
WELL... THE COMINGS AND GOINGS BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES HAVE BECOME EASY AFTER THEIR MARRIAGE. BUT... HE DOESN'T HAVE A RESIDENCY PERMIT YET


SO, I'M ASKING AS A PERSONAL FAVOR. IF YOU COULD GIVE HIM A RESIDENCY PERMIT TO ENTER THE PALACE FROM TIME TO TIME IN MY STEAD?
I CAN VOUCH FOR HIM.
HAVE YOU CHOSEN HIM AS YOUR FUTURE SON-IN-LAW OR SOMETHING OLD MAN?
IN YOUR PLACE, YOU SAID?
HAHA...

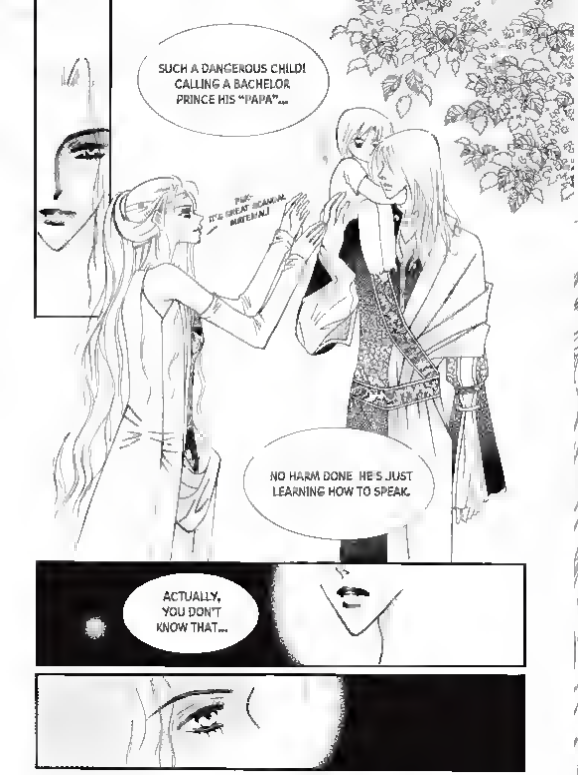
CLUNK
CLUNK
YOU'LL SOON GET YOUR RESIDENCY PERMIT...
HE AND I ARE OLD FRIENDS. HE'LL GLADLY GRANT ME A FAVOR.
...YES, SIR.
...YOU DON'T SEEM PLEASED BY THE NEWS. WHAT'S ON YOUR MIND?
THE PALACE...

SEEMS SO FAR AWAY.
PRINCESS?
PRINCESS...

YES, NANNY?
ARE YOU FEELING ILL? YOU'VE BEEN SLEEPING NON-STOP...
.....
NO. I'M JUST... SLEEPY, THAT'S ALL..
JUST...
.....

T T
ALEX!
DON'T RUN! YOU MIGHT FALL!

YOU'RE ONE ENERGETIC YOUNG MASTER, AREN'T YOU?
... ..
PA~!
AL...
!
GLEWHIN!
ALEX. PAPA.
I THINK HE JUST CALLED ME "PAPA."

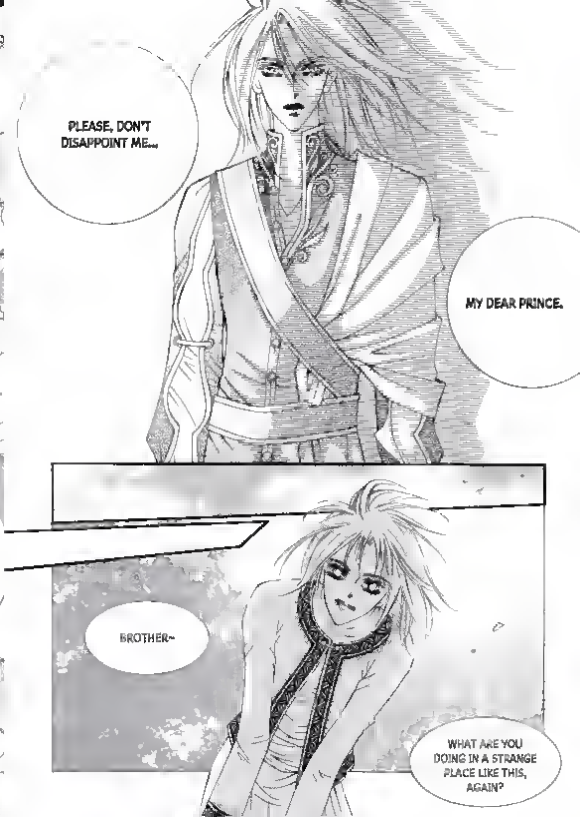

SUCH A DANGEROUS CHILD! CALLING A BACHELOR PRINCE HIS "PAPA"...
PAH! IT'S GREAT SCANDAL MATERIAL!
NO HARM DONE. HE'S JUST LEARNING HOW TO SPEAK.
ACTUALLY, YOU DON'T KNOW THAT...

NOT A DAY GOES BY THAT I DON'T WISH...
BOTH YOU AND THIS CHILD WERE MINE, DO YOU?

I ALWAYS FORGET...
THAT YOU'RE NO LONGER A LITTLE BOY.
BUT NO KING EVER TAKES...
A WIDOW WITH A CHILD AS HIS QUEEN.

BUT I CAN RELINQUISH THE CROWN—.
DAD...
YOU HAVEN'T FULLY MATURED INTO MANHOOD YET. YOU'RE JUST NO LONGER A BOY.
I REFUSE TO LET MY CHILD TO GROW UP ONLY TO DIE ON THE BATTLE FIELD LIKE HIS FATHER.

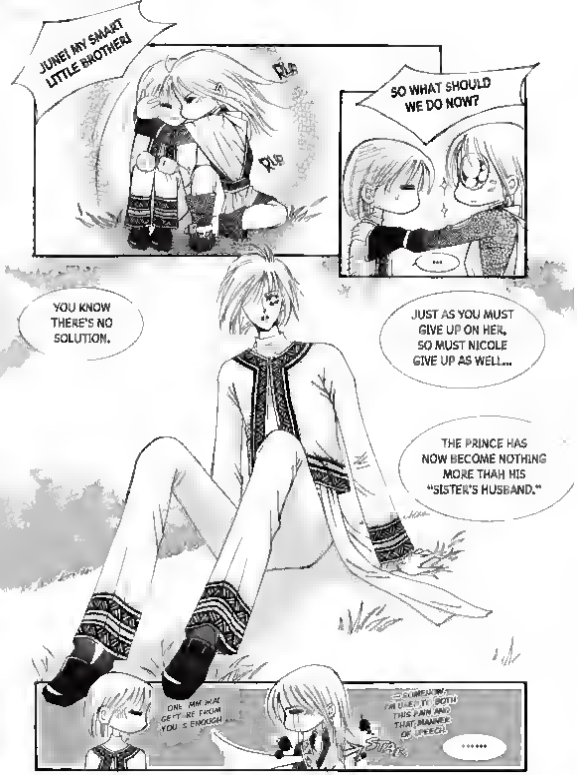
TO PREVENT THAT FROM HAPPENING...
YOU MUST BECOME A GREAT KING.
A WISE, CUNNING, AND POWERFUL KING.
SO...


PLEASE, DON'T DISAPPOINT ME...
MY DEAR PRINCE.
BROTHER~
WHAT ARE YOU DOING IN A STRANGE PLACE LIKE THIS, AGAIN?

...JUNE?
...YES
YOU ALWAYS KNOW WHERE TO FIND ME.
.....

PARDON?
YOU TOLD THE COUNTESS YOU WOULD GIVE UP THE CROWN FOR HER?
HMP
.....
AND?
SHE TREATED ME LIKE AN OVEREXCITED PUBESCENT BOY WHO COULDN'T TELL RIGHT FROM WRONG.
—SHE SCOLDED ME SEVERELY

I WENT TO CONSULT WITH HER ON AN ISSUE, BUT ON IMPULSE, I...
I MADE MYSELF LOOK AS IF I WAS POSING TO BE NICOLE'S OLDER BROTHER WHEN I CAN'T EVEN TAKE CARE OF MYSELF.
JUNE! YOU KNEW...?
OUR SIBLINGS, ALL OF US... WE ALL HAVE SERIOUS DILEMMAS. A STABLE KEEPER, A WIDOW—
AND EVEN A DANGEROUS PRINCE FROM AN UNPREDICTABLE ALLIED KINGDOM.
OF COURSE, I KNEW. AFTER ALL, WE RAISED THAT LITTLE KID TOGETHER.
YOUCHEE.


JUNE! MY SMART LITTLE BROTHER!
PLOP
PLOP
SO WHAT SHOULD WE DO NOW?
...
YOU KNOW THERE'S NO SOLUTION.
JUST AS YOU MUST GIVE UP ON HER, SO MUST NICOLE GIVE UP AS WELL...
THE PRINCE HAS NOW BECOME NOTHING MORE THAN HIS "SISTER'S HUSBAND."
ONE MAN DEAD GET'S ME ENOUGH
STARE
.....

IT'S UNFORTUNATE, BUT THERE ISN'T ANYTHING WE CAN DO.
THANKFULLY, HE STILL SEEMS UNCERTAIN ABOUT HIS FEELINGS WE CAN ONLY HOPE THAT HE WILL LET THEM GO.
BUT IT'S AS IF WE ARE ASKING NICOLE TO COPE ALONE WITH A PROBLEM THAT WE OURSELVES CREATED.
SOMETHING I HAVEN'T YET UNDERSTOOD IS...
PRINCE JED...

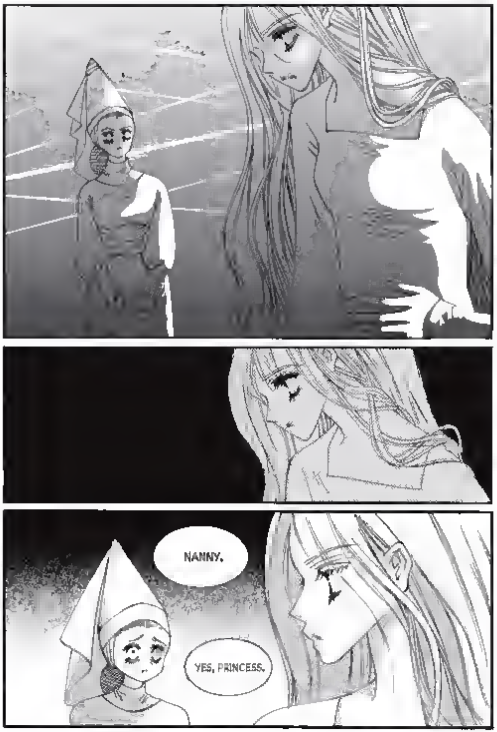
IF IT WAS SOMETHING THAT HE COULD WALK AWAY FROM SO EASILY...
DOESN'T THAT MEAN HIS FEELINGS WERE WEAK AS WELL?

OR MAYBE THEY WERE LIGHT AND FLEETING, SOMETHING HE SHOOK OFF EASILY.
PERHAPS, HE HAS FORGOTTEN THE LITTLE BOY BY NOW.

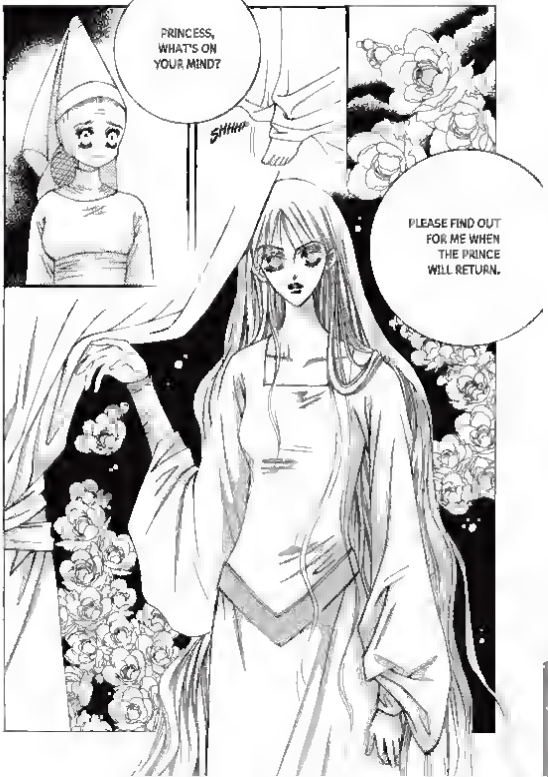
BROTHER.
ARE YOU LEAVING FOR THE BORDER AGAIN?
YES. BUT I WON'T BE GONE VERY LONG THIS TIME

PLEASE LOOK AFTER PRINCESS ELENA IN MY ABSENCE.
AND DON'T ACT RECKLESSLY FROM NOW ON.
OKAY..
— HE'S TREATING ME LIKE A PROBLEM CHILD.
PRINCESS! WHAT'S THE MATTER?
WHAT'S WRONG?
ARE YOU FEELING ILL?
!
!
OH MY GOD
IT CAN'T BE...
!

IT JUST CAN'T BE...
A... A BABY!


NANNY.
YES, PRINCESS.

HOW FAST CAN A BABY BE BORN?
6 MONTHS? IT'S POSSIBLE TO DELIVER IT IN 7 MONTHS, RIGHT?


PRINCESS, WHAT'S ON YOUR MIND?
SHHH
PLEASE FIND OUT FOR ME WHEN THE PRINCE WILL RETURN.

HUFF...

IT'S HOT. SHOULD I TAKE A BREAK?
FLAP
FLAP

AM I EVEN GOING THE RIGHT DIRECTION?

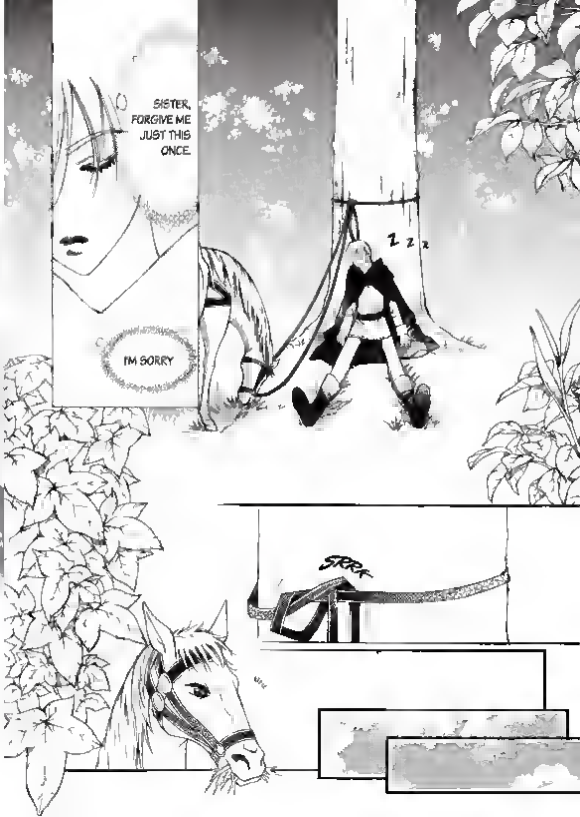
NO. I DON'T EVEN KNOW IF HE'LL BE THERE...

I JUST THOUGHT MAYBE HE'D RETURN TO FINISH HIS TASK, SINCE HE HAD TO RUSH PRINCESS REINY TO OUR KINGDOM.
STILL, THIS IS SUCH A RASH THING TO DO
BUT...

I MISS HIM.
HOW STRANGE, I CAN'T REMEMBER A THING ABOUT HIM TO THE POINT WHERE IT SHOCKS ME.
JUST...
THE TIP OF HIS FINGERS...

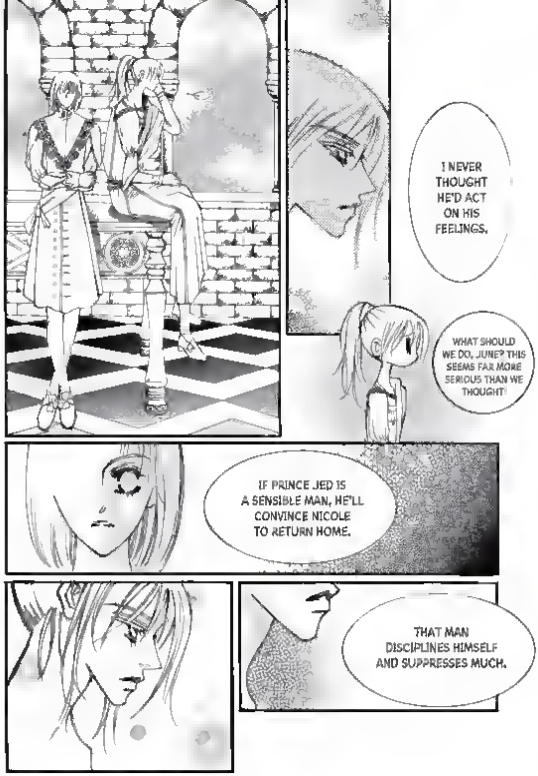
THE ENDS OF HIS BLACK HAIR...
THOSE THINGS ARE ALL I CAN REMEMBER.
SO I MUST WATCH HIM FROM A DISTANCE IN SECRET AND THEN RETURN.

I'LL LOOK AND LOOK UNTIL MY EYES NEVER FORGET AGAIN THE WAY HE LOOKS...
IN DETAILS... SO I CAN REMEMBER HIM CLEARLY EVEN IF I DON'T EVER SEE HIM AGAIN.
MAYBE THEN..
THIS DAILY STABBING PAIN IN MY HEART WILL GO AWAY...


SISTER, FORGIVE ME JUST THIS ONCE.
I'M SORRY
Z z z
SSRRK

BROTHER!
BROTHER!
JUNE? WHAT'S THE MATTER?
IT'S NOT LIKE YOU TO BE SO EXCITED.
!
NICOLE IS MISSING!

WHAT DO YOU MEAN HE'S MISSING?
HE LEFT THIS LETTER AND DISAPPEARED
"I'LL BE BACK SOON...DON'T LOOK FOR ME"?
JUNE, DO YOU THINK...?
...YES.


I NEVER THOUGHT HE'D ACT ON HIS FEELINGS.
WHAT SHOULD WE DO, JUNE? THIS SEEMS FAR MORE SERIOUS THAN WE THOUGHT.
IF PRINCE JED IS A SENSIBLE MAN, HE'LL CONVINCE NICOLE TO RETURN HOME.
THAT MAN DISCIPLINES HIMSELF AND SUPPRESSES MUCH.

I CAN'T IMAGINE WHAT HE'D BE CAPABLE OF IF ONE DAY HE THREW ALL HIS SELF-CONTROL AWAY.
BROTHER?
WE CAN'T GO AND BRING NICOLE HOME OURSELVES. HE'S IN THE OTHER KINGDOM BY NOW. THEY PATROL THAT AREA AND THAT'S VERY PROBLEMATIC--WE DON'T HAVE PRINCESS REINY TO USE AS AN EXCUSE LIKE THE LAST TIME.
--IT'LL JUST MAKE OUR MOVES MORE APPREHENSIVE.

I HOPE I WON'T HAVE TO SETTLE ANY ISSUES WITH THE PRINCE...
EEP!!
MY, MY HORSE...
MY HORSE IS GONE!

FLOP
I'M ALREADY CONFUSED ABOUT THE WAY AND NOW I HAVE TO CONTINUE ON FOOT?
AND TWO FOOD-IP THE WATER-P
DRIP
SHAAAA
GUESS I WON'T NEED TO WORRY ABOUT WATER AT LEAST

PLORP
I'M COLD...
HOW LONG HAVE I BEEN WALKING? I CAN'T EVEN SEE WHERE I'M GOING...
IT LOOKS LIKE IT'LL GET DARK SOON, TOO...
DID I REALLY DO A USELESS THING GOING TO FIND HIM?
MAYBE I SHOULD FIND A SHELTER SOMEWHERE INSTEAD OF WANDERING AIMLESSLY IN THE RAIN.
HUH? IS THAT...?

THAT'S THE HEROT TRIBE'S POND!
SPLOP
YAY~! I'M SAVED!

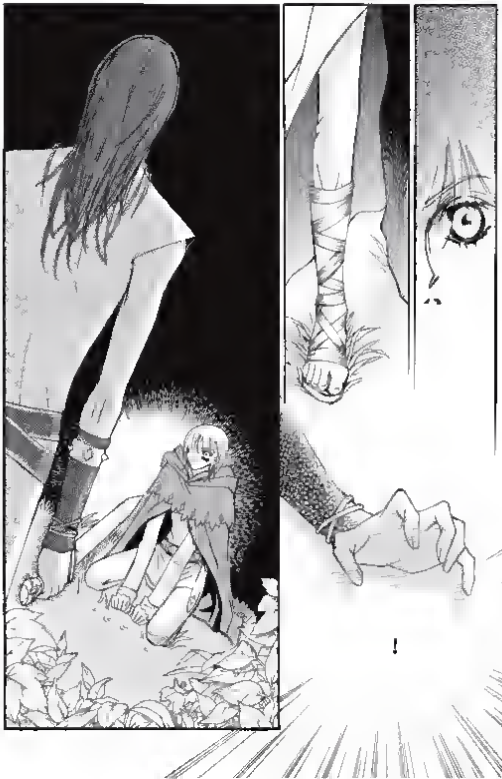
THANK GOODNESS. I'M NOT SUCH AN UNLUCKY KID AFTER ALL.
RUSTLE
WHAT'S THAT?!
AN ANIMAL? WHAT IF IT'S A PREDATOR?
OH, IT'S A PERSON!

HUH?
IT. IT CAN'T BE
JED!

HRN?
NO.. NO WAY
I COULDN'T HAVE FOUND HIM THIS EASILY!
BUT.. WHY ARE HIS EYES SO COLD?
JE...

THIS WAY! THE INTRUDER IS OVER HERE!
SWISH
?
?
JED?! WHY?

AN INTRUDER?
ME?
WHERE?
PRINCE JEDII
.....
WISSHH
?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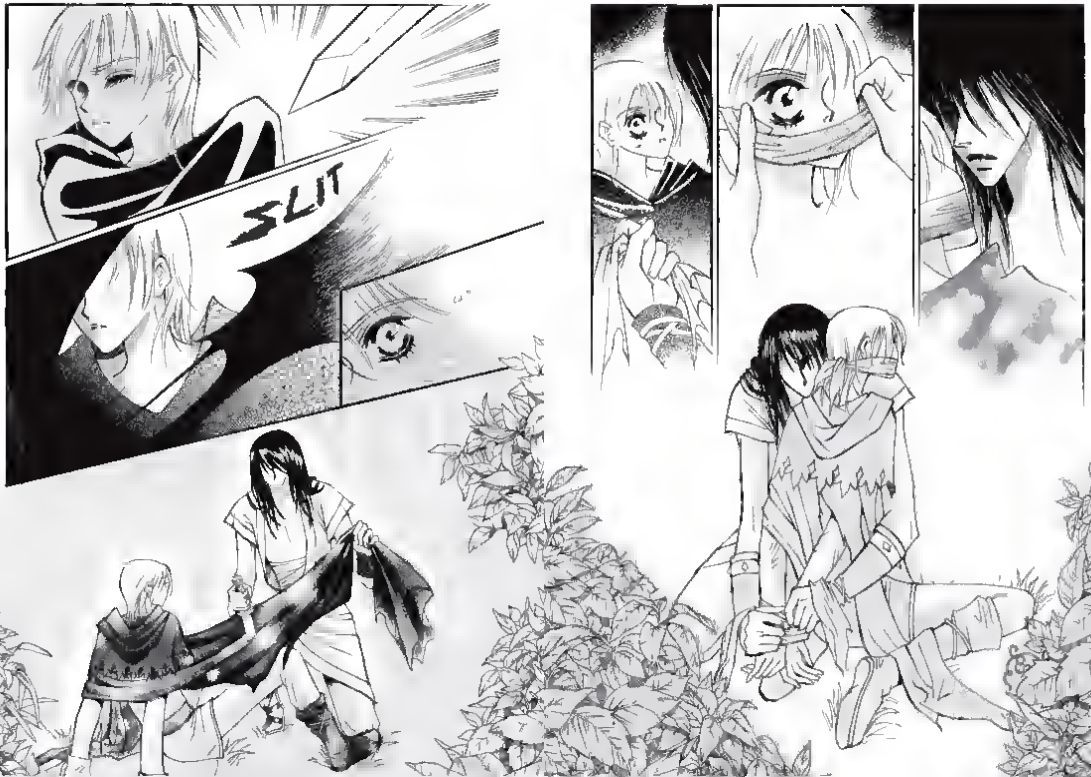

SLIT

WHY ARE YOU DOING THIS? JED!
PRINCE JED!

AH, IT'S ALRIGHT. I GOT HIM. I WILL TAKE HIM IN.

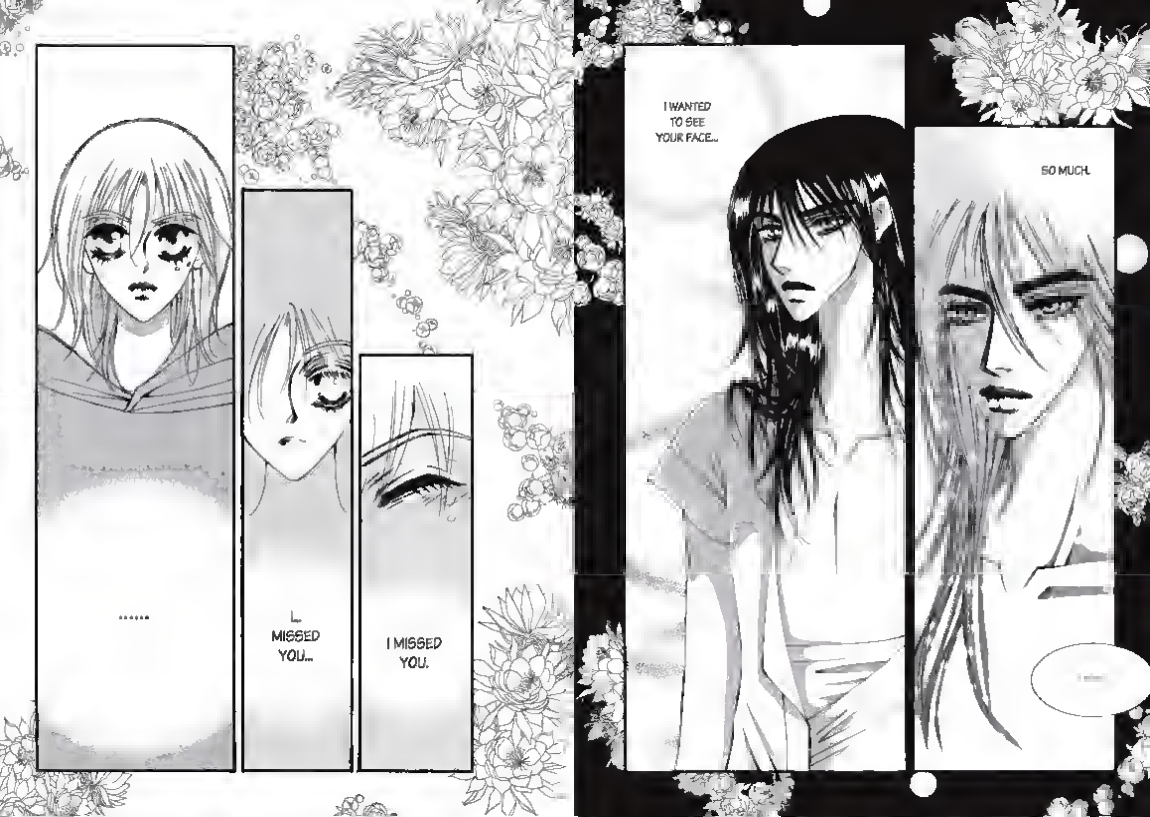
...JED!!
IS HE A KID?
IT'S A LITTLE BOY?!
WHERE DID HE COME FROM?
WE WOULDN'T HAVE NOTICED HIM IF IT WEREN'T FOR THAT HORSE.
RIGHT
THE HORSE?

I THE HORSE IS HERE...!
YOU BAD HORSE! YOU ABANDON YOUR MASTER AND COME TO THIS PLACE, AS IF YOU HAVE NOT A CARE IN THE WORLD?! SO YOU MANAGED TO FIND THIS PLACE ON YOUR OWN HUH?!
SNORT
AND YOU CALL YOURSELF A ROYAL HORSE?!

PRINCE JEDI WELCOME BACK.
FLING!
PLUMP
TIE HIM DOWN IN MY TENT SO HE CAN'T RUN AWAY.
YOU'LL INTERROGATE HIM YOURSELF?
HE'S BEEN UPSET ALL DAY
WELL, HE HAS EVIDENCE THAT OUR DEFENSES WERE LAX.

WHAT A DIRTY, UGLY BOY.
WHAT DID YOU SAY?!
PHFFF
PHFFF

I'M FREEZING... AND I THINK I HAVE A FEVER, TOO.
WHAT IS THIS? I DIDN'T COME HERE TO BE TREATED THIS WAY.
MORE THAN ANYTHING, I DIDN'T COME HERE TO SEE THOSE COLD EYES.
— I DON'T WANT TO REMEMBER THINGS LIKE THAT. THEY'RE SCARY.
AT THIS RATE, WOULDN'T BE SURPRISED IF HE KILLED ME AND THREW MY BODY AWAY
ARE YOU THINKING ABOUT YOUR BROTHERS AGAIN?


.....
I... MISSED YOU...
I MISSED YOU.
I WANTED TO SEE YOUR FACE...
SO MUCH.

THERE'S NO USE CRYING. YOUR BROTHERS CAN'T COME TO HELP YOU NOW.
? MY BROTHERS?

WHY IN THE WORLD DID YOU COME ALL THE WAY OUT HERE? ARE YOU DUMBER THAN YOUR OWN HORSE?
POOF
!
NEEHIN—
WAIT. I'LL UNTIE YOU.
SSHH

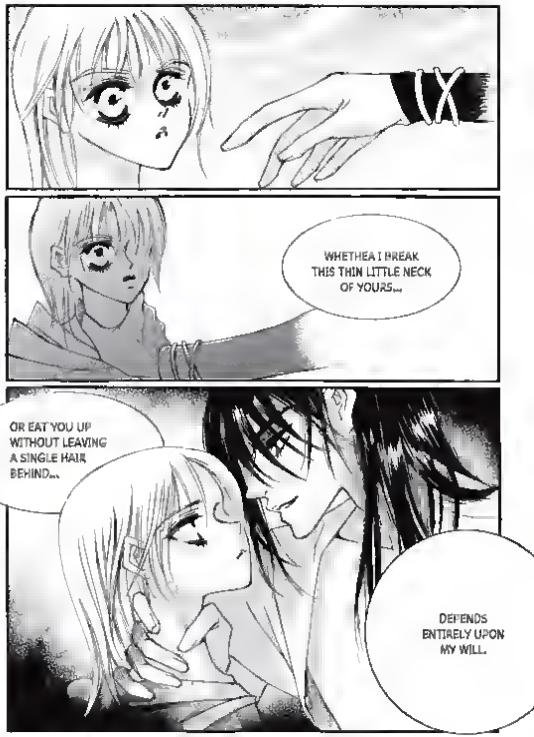
CHOSA
. . . .
WHAT THE HELL ARE YOU DOING?
THAT'S THE THIRD TIME ALREADY
HEY.
DRIP
!

SO, WHAT HAPPENED? ARE YOU IN TROUBLE WITH YOUR BROTHERS OR SOMETHING?
CHOMP!
I WASN'T NOT....
DO YOU REALLY BELIEVE THAT I CAME ALL THE WAY OUT HERE FOR A PATHETIC REASON LIKE THAT?
YOU'RE THE ONE WHO TREATS ME LIKE A KID!

WHAT'S THE REASON THEN? HOW DO YOU EXPLAIN A BOY PRINCE CROSSING OUR KINGDOM'S BORDERS WITHOUT BODYGUARDS, FUMBLING AROUND, LOST AND ALONE.
WHAT SHOULD I CALL SOMEONE WHO WALKS AROUND WITHOUT THINKING, SOMEONE WHO DOESN'T REALIZE THE DANGER HE COULD GET HIMSELF INTO IF ANYTHING GOES WRONG, OTHER THAN A LITTLE KID?

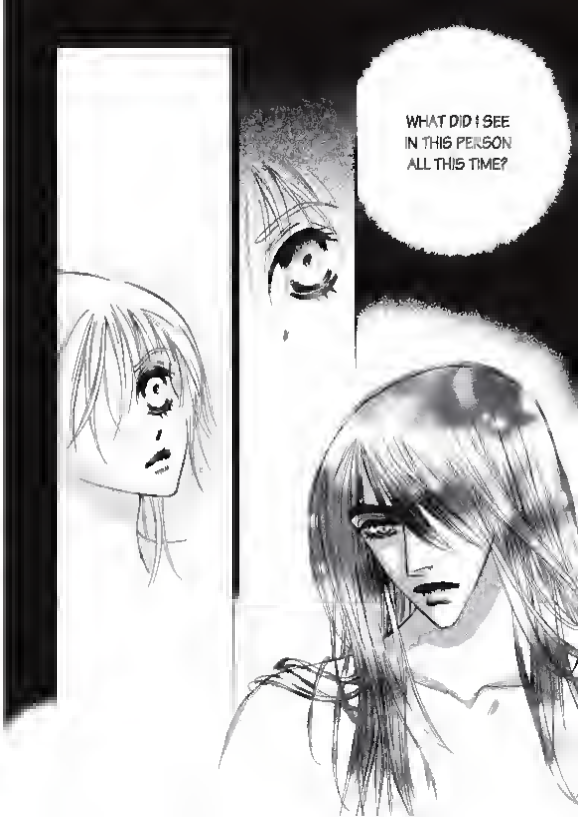
IF YOU HAD NO OTHER CHOICE BUT TO DO IT KNOWING THE RISK, TELL ME WHAT THE REASON WAS.
OR...
I DON'T KNOW!
BAH! HOW CAN I TELL YOU THAT I JUST CAME TO SEE YOU?
I DON'T HAVE A REASON!

YOU'RE NO LONGER MY WIFE WHOM I MUST RESPECT.
PERHAPS YOU RE FORGETTING.
YOU'RE A MERE PRISONER WHOM I CAN TREAT AS I PLEASE.


WHETHEA I HREAK THIS THIN LITTLE NECK OF YOURS...
OR EAT YOU UP WITHOUT LEAVING A SINGLE HAIR BEHIND...
DEPENDS ENTIRELY UPON MY WILL.

NOW THEN.
HOW SHOULD
I TREAT YOU?

THOSE EYES!
HE'S NOT
KIDDING.


WHAT DID I SEE
IN THIS PERSON
ALL THIS TIME?

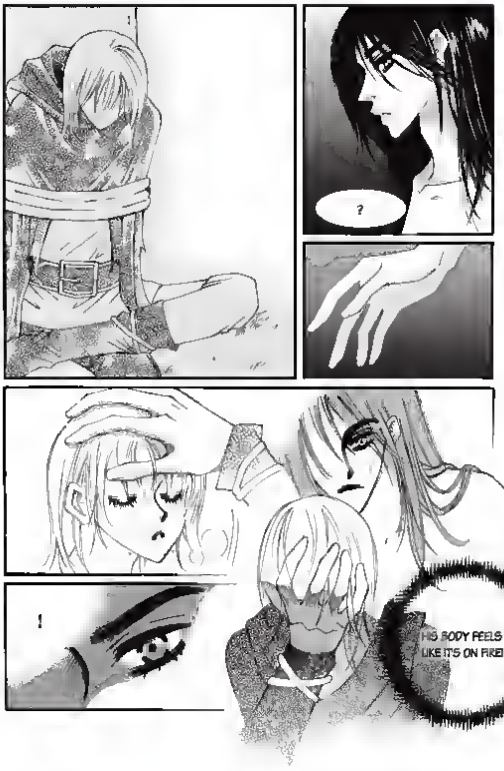
SINCE EVERY EMOTION THAT HE SHOWED ME UNTIL NOW...

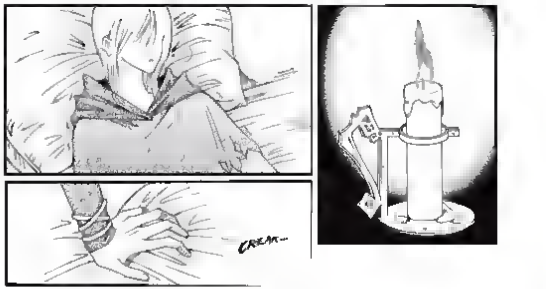
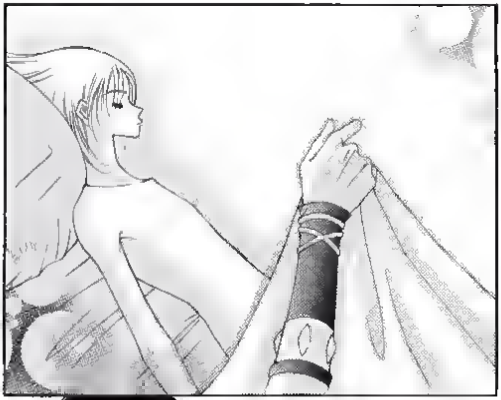
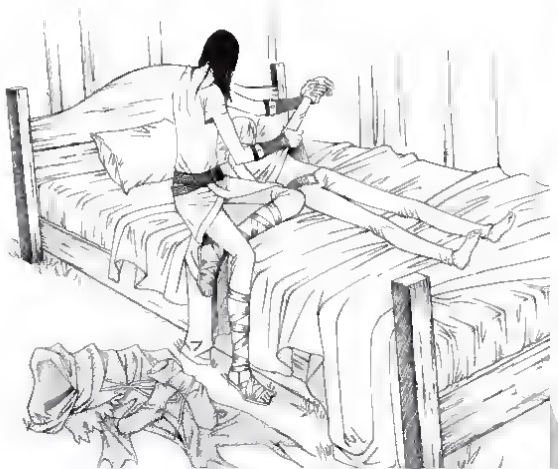
WAS FOR HIS WIFE.

ONCE I BECAME "MYSELF"...

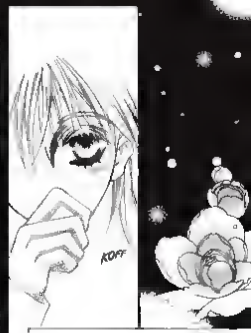
I WASN'T NEEDED ANYMORE?
I SHOULDN'T HAVE COME...
IF THE LAST THING I SEE OF HIM IS THIS COLD FACE...

I SHOULD NEVER HAVE LOOKED...
LIFT YOUR HEAD, NICOLE. IF YOU'RE THINKING ABOUT USING YOUR SILLY TEARS TO ESCAPE, FORGET IT.


?
!
HIS BODY FEELS LIKE IT'S ON FIRE!
DAMN IT!
FLOP.


CREAK...



WHEN I REALIZE THAT THE UNRIDDEN HORSE FROM THE FOREST WAS HIS...
I FELT HAZY.
I HARDLY REMEMBER NOW HOW I WANDERED AIMLESSLY IN THE RAIN
ABSENT-MINDEDLY?
NO, LIKE A MAD MAN-.
!
AT THAT MOMENT ALL AT ONCE, MY CONFUSED MIND INSTANTLY WENT BLANK.

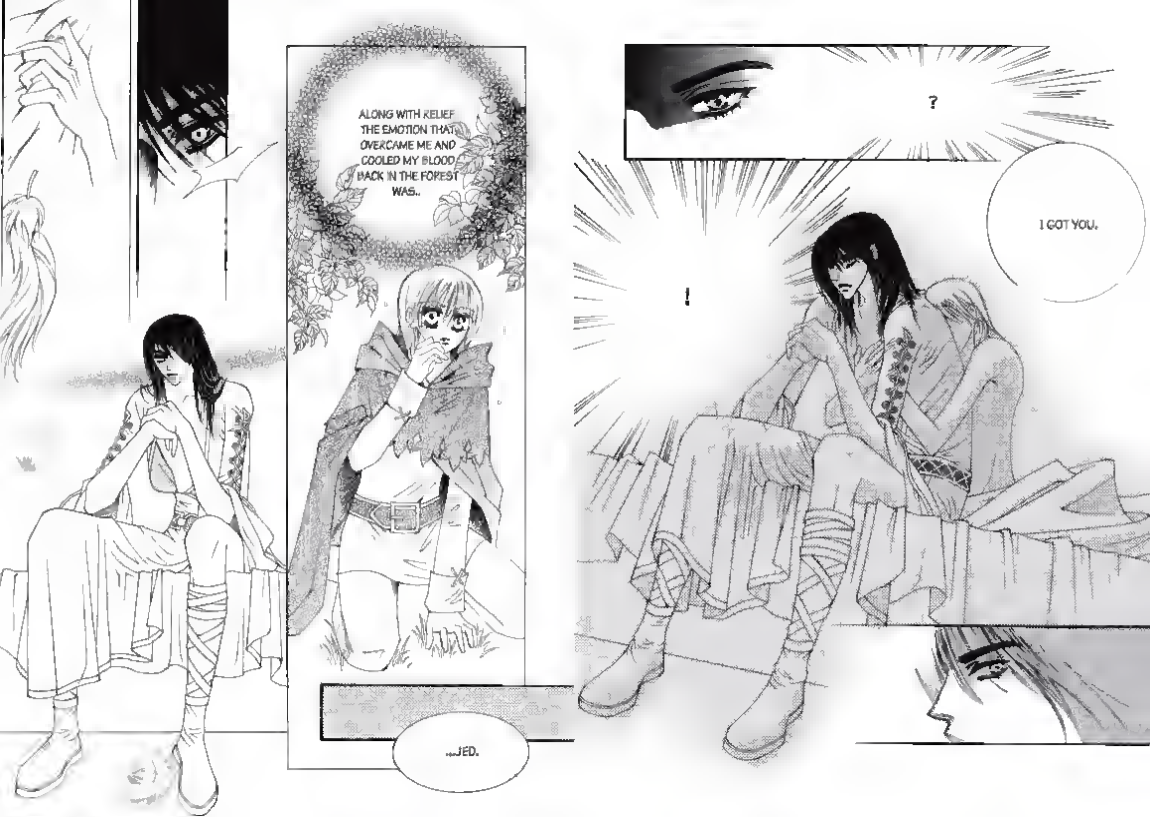


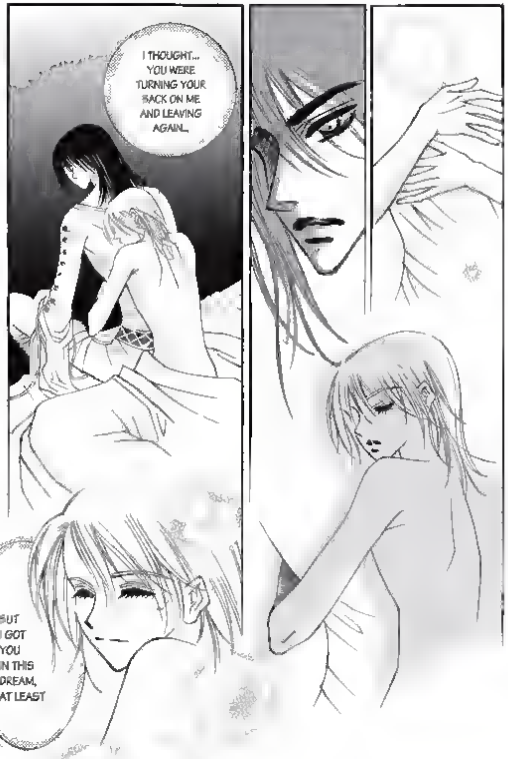
HOW COULD I LET HIM GET TO THIS POINT?

I LET MY HEART ESCAPE FROM MY MOUTH AND WANDER ON ITS OWN.

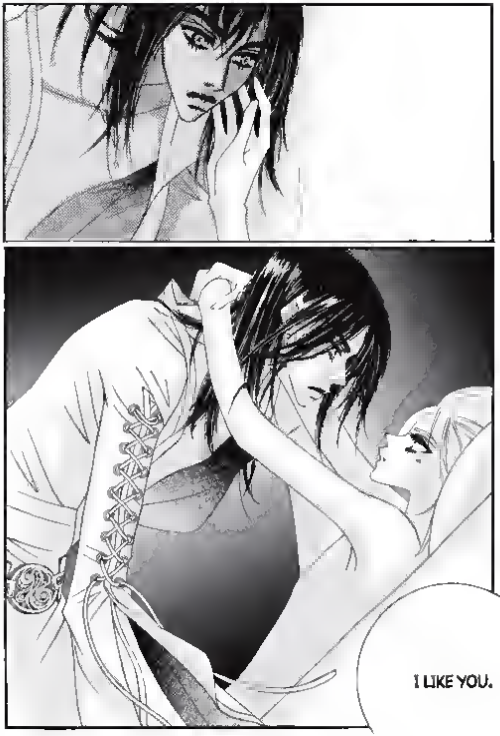
IT HURTS ME TO SEE HIM ILL.
AND IT TORTURES ME WHEN HE CRIES.
WHEN HE'S BESIDE ME...

EVEN THOUGH I'M SURE OF MY FEELINGS, HE'S TOO YOUNG IN HIS.
HE'S VERY RASH.
AND IF HE HAD KNOWN THE STATE I'M IN, HE NEVER WOULD HAVE FLOWN ACROSS THE BORDER SO DEFENSELESSLY
IN THE END...
NO GOOD WILL COME OF THIS.


ALONG WITH RELIEF THE EMOTION THAT OVERCAME ME AND COOLED MY BLOOD BACK IN THE FOREST WAS..
...JED.
?
I GOT YOU.
!


I THOUGHT... YOU WERE TURNING YOUR BACK ON ME AND LEAVING AGAIN...
BUT I GOT YOU IN THIS DREAM, AT LEAST

NO!
STOP!
JED...
YOU.

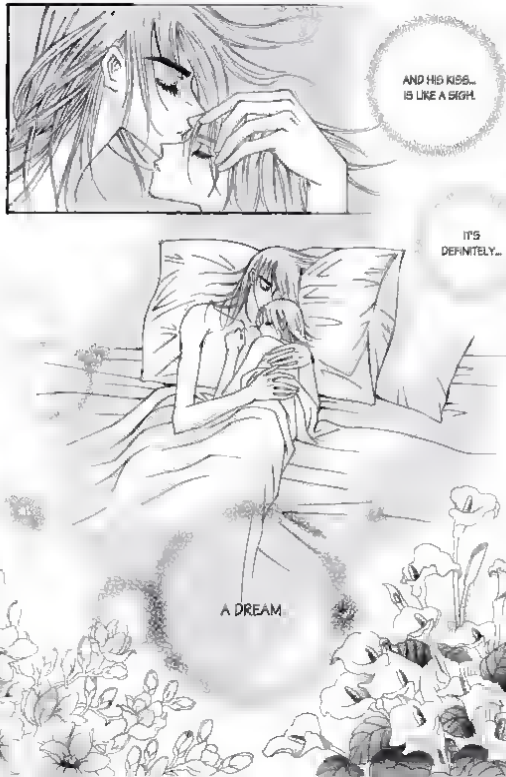

I LIKE YOU.

I LIKE YOU

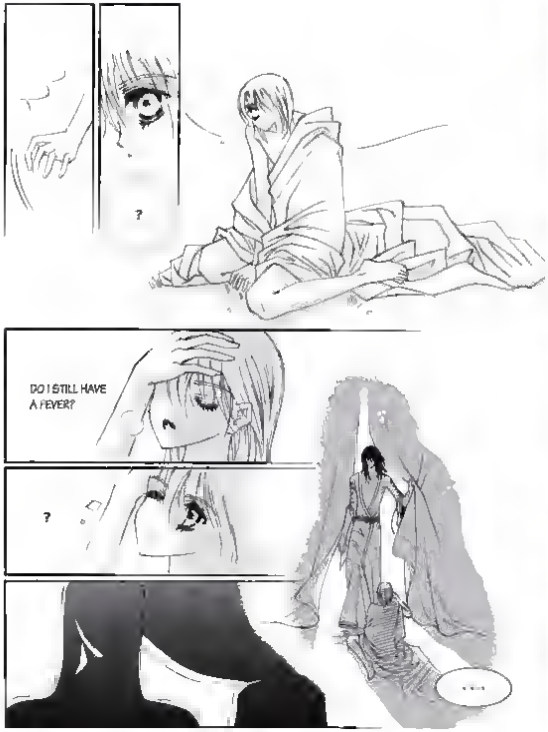
I LIKE...
YOU.
SHUSH
SQUEEZE...

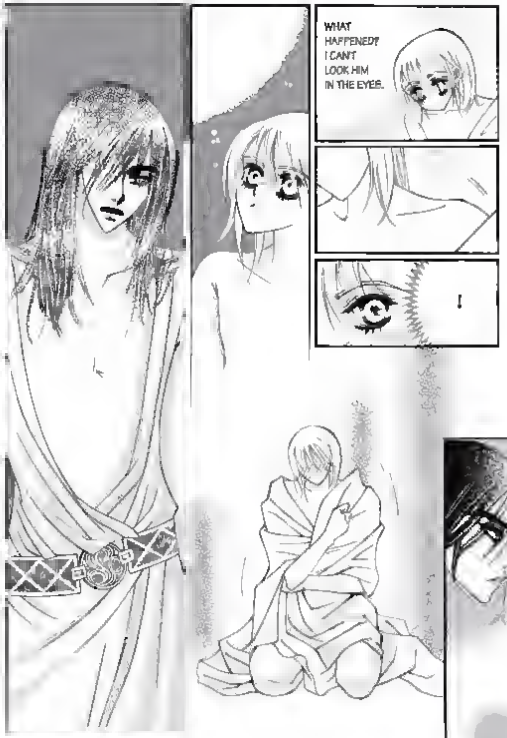
HIS SKIN FEELS COOL.
.....
IT'S A STRANGE... YET WARM DREAM.

WHEN I OPEN MY EYES...
I SEE JED'S FACE RIGHT IN FRONT OF ME...
HE QUICKLY OPENS HIS EYES AND LOOKS AT ME.
HIS SOFT EYES ARE FILLED WITH WARMTH. THEY MAKE ME SAD BECAUSE I'M WONDERING IF THIS IS ALL A DREAM.
IT MAKES ME WANT TO CRY AGAIN.
BUT SOON HIS HAND WRAPS AROUND ME...


AND HIS KISS... IS LIKE A SIGH.
IT'S DEFINITELY...
A DREAM.

...COLD.
WHAT DID I EXPECT?
MY CLOTHES ARE STILL WET. WHAT WORRIES ME MORE THAN ANYTHING IS WHAT'S GOING TO HAPPEN TO ME NOW? WILL I EVEN BE ABLE TO GO BACK?
I'M BEING TREATED LIKE AN INTRUDER, SO IT WON'T BE EASY TO LEAVE EITHER.
WOBBLE


?
DO I STILL HAVE A FEVER?
?
. . . .

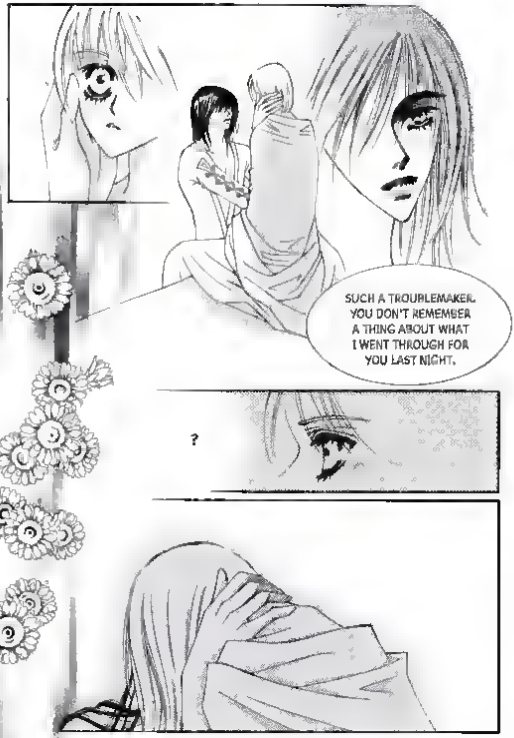

WHAT HAPPENED? I CAN'T LOOK HIM IN THE EYES.
!

YOU REALLY ARE A KID WHO CAN'T STAY STILL, EVEN FOR A MOMENT.
PSH
THE KID TREATMENT AGAIN...
HERE. CHANGE INTO THIS.
SHIRK
WHAT ARE YOU GOING TO DO WITH ME?
PROMISE ME FIRST...
?
THAT YOU WON'T DO ANYTHING THIS RECKLESS AGAIN!

THIS KINGDOM IS THE KIND OF PLACE THAT YOU, THE YOUNGEST PRINCE OF THE NEIGHBORING LAND, SHOULD NEVER COME TO FOR PERSONAL REASONS
IN ADDITION, WE HAVE NO FORMAL RELATIONSHIP. SO...
YOU SHOULDN'T CREATE ANY CAUSE FOR SUSPICION.
JED...
!
IS THAT WHY YOU CORNERED ME LIKE AN INTRUDER AND NID ME? SO THAT NO ONE WOULD RECOGNIZE ME?
. . . .

GET DRESSED WE MUST HURRY
THEN...
WHAT ARE YOU GOING TO PROMISE ME?
DO YOU HAVE ANYTHING TO PROMISE ME NOW THAT I'VE BECOME "NOTHING" TO YOU?

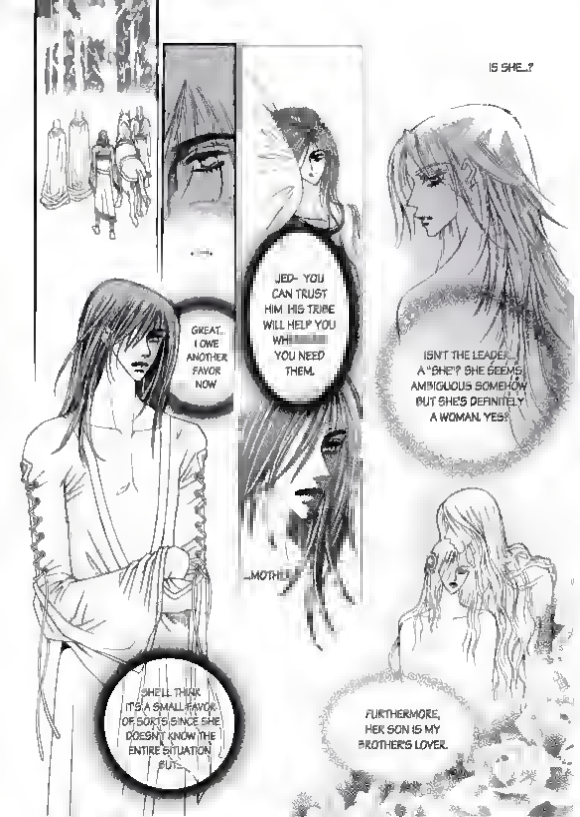
FOR INSTANCE...
YOU COULD PROMISE THAT YOU'LL STILL THINK OF ME SOMETIMES...
OR THAT YOU'LL COME SEE ME EVERY ONCE IN A WHILE EVEN THOUGH IT WILL BE WITH MY SISTER...


SUCH A TROUBLEMAKER. YOU DON'T REMEMBER A THING ABOUT WHAT I WENT THROUGH FOR YOU LAST NIGHT.
?

WAIT, JED! WHAT DOES IT MEAN?
PRINCE JED! THE HEROT TRIBE LEADER IS HERE.
THE HEROT TRIBE?
HE'S HERE...
?
JE—.
NICOLE, CHANGE INTO THOSE CLOTHES AND COVER YOUR FACE AS BEST YOU CAN. THEN COME OUTSIDE.
AFTER THAT, JUST FOLLOW THEM. JUST DO THAT. DON'T SAY A WORD

I APOLOGIZE THAT ONE OF OUR BOYS HAS CAUSED YOU TROUBLE.
HE MUST HAVE FALLEN BEHIND THE OTHERS WHEN THEY WENT OUT TO DO TREATMENTS. CAN YOU RETURN HIM TO US?
WE APOLOGIZE. WE TREATED HIM SO ROUGHLY THAT HE BECAME FRIGHTENED AND REFUSED TO SPEAK. THAT'S WHY WE WERE DELAYED IN CONTACTING YOU.
PLEASE TAKE HIM

COME CHILD.
SHE MUST BE A FEMALE LEADER.
SHE LOOKS EXACTLY LIKE THAT APOTHECARY!
RETURN HIS HORSE AS WELL.
YES, SIRE.
THEY'RE BOTH SUPERB ACTORS.
WE WERE WORRIED ABOUT YOU.
THANK YOU. GOODBYE, THEN.


GREAT... I OWE ANOTHER FAVOR NOW
JED~ YOU CAN TRUST HIM. HIS TRIBE WILL HELP YOU WHI[illegible] YOU NEED THEM.
...MOTHE[illegible]
SHE'LL THINK IT'S A SMALL FAVOR, OF SORTS, SINCE SHE DOESN'T KNOW THE ENTIRE SITUATION. BUT...
IS SHE...?
ISN'T THE LEADER A "SHE"? SHE SEEMS AMBIGUOUS SOMEHOW, BUT SHE'S DEFINITELY A WOMAN, YES?
FURTHERMORE, HER SON IS MY BROTHER'S LOVER.

AND THE WAY THAT BOY LOOKS AT ME IS DEFINITELY NOT FRIENDLY...
IT'S ACTUALLY CLOSER TO HATRED
YES?
WHY DO YOU NEED THAT KIND OF MEDICINE?
MY PRINCESS HAS BEEN HAVING TROUBLE SLEEPING THE PAST FEW DAYS... I WORRY ABOUT HER.
I SEE. I WILL CHECK ON HER CONDITION AND PREPARE THE MEDICINE ACCORDINGLY.
MY LORD! IS HE REALLY A MAN? HOW PRETTY!

NO, NO.
JUST PREPARE THE MEDICINE, PLEASE. THE PRINCESS IS VERY SENSITIVE THESE DAYS AND DOESN'T WISH TO SEE ANYONE.
...
AS YOU WISH, I'LL HAVE IT SENT LATER THEN
AWW... WHY DIDN'T I KEEP BETTER CARE OF THE MEDICINE BEFORE?
WHAM!

MARTIN?!
MY GOD!! IT, IT CAN'T BE...
FR...PRINCESS!!
WHAT DO I DO?
WHAT IS IT, NANNY?

NANNY, YOU LOOK PALE. WHAT'S THE MATTER?
WHAT DO I DO? SHOULD I TELL HER?
EVEN IF I DO, WHAT DIFFERENCE WILL IT MAKE?
NANNY?
BUT IF I LET THE SITUATION REMAIN THIS WAY THE PRINCESS WILL BE...!
DID YOU GET THE MEDICINE?
AH, WHAT SHOULD I DO?
I MUST INFORM PRINCE GLEWHIN ABOUT THIS! IT'S THE ONLY WAY!
NICOLE CAME BACK? WHERE IS HE?
CALM DOWN SISTER.
BAM
NICOLE!

BROTHERS!
YIKES!
WHAT IS THIS ENHANCE?
YOU MUST HAVE BEEN VERY WORRIED.
I'M SORRY.
RADIANT AS EVER

BUT NOTHING HAPPENED, AND I'M REPENTING ALREADY SO PLEASE FORGIVE ME.
WHAT DID I DO WRONG?
I'M SORRY
WHY CAN'T I GO WHEREVER I WANT WITH MY OWN TWO FEET?
YOU HAVE NO RIGHT TO TELL ME WHAT TO DO!
NOW
OH, I CAN'T TIE THIS THING
COME HERE. I'LL DO IT
(I JUST CAN'T TELL HIM)
OKAY.

—?
WHAT'S THIS?
IT... CAN'T BE!
BROTHER?
AH!
BROTHER!
Panic

SEE THAT, JUNE! WHAT DO YOU MEAN "HE RETURNED THE BOY UNHARMED"?!
PUTTING MY LITTLE BROTHER IN THAT CONDITION-!
I WON'T LET HIM GET AWAY WITH IT! THAT FILTHY DOG!
HOW DARE HE TREAT MY PRECIOUS BROTHER LIKE THAT!!
GNEER GNEER
THIS MEANS WAR! NOW!
HAVE YOU CALMED DOWN A BIT NOW?
...HOW'S NICOLE DOING?

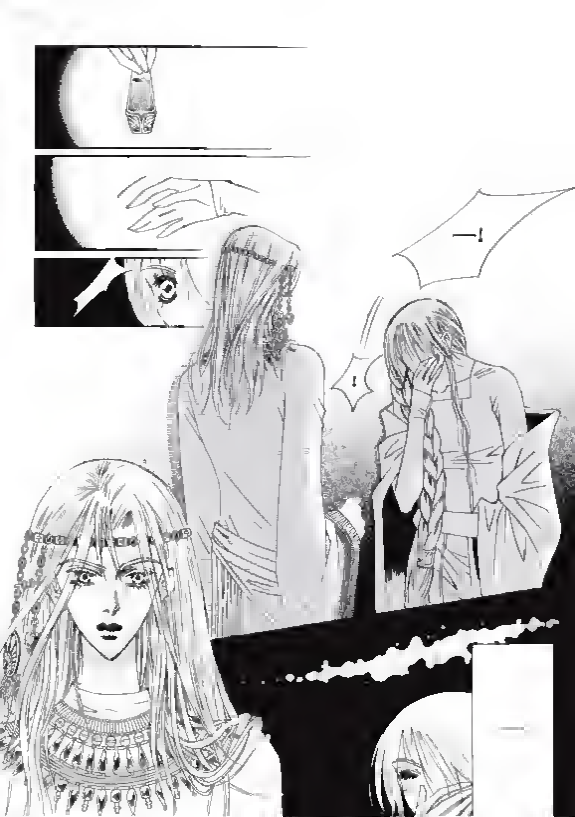
HE TURNED BRIGHT RED WITH EMBARRASSMENT AND FELL ASLEEP.
I THINK HE FIGURED IT OUT. HE OWES IT ALL TO YOU.
I WANTED TO SCOLD HIM HARSHLY, BUT I GUESS THAT'S OUT OF THE QUESTION NOW.
IT SEEMS THAT'S WHERE THE PRINCE DREW THE LINE... IF NICOLE DOESN'T EVEN KNOW ABOUT IT...
IF HE HAD SOMETHING MORE ON HIS MIND, HE WOULD'VE HAD PLENTY OF OPPORTUNITIES. DON'T YOU THINK HE WAS BEING CONSIDERATE IN HIS OWN WAY?
CONSIDERATE?
YES. PERHAPS HE'S WAITING FOR NICOLE TO GROW UP OR HE'S MAKING SURE HE HAS MUTUAL CONSENT INSTEAD OF JUST FORCING HIS OWN WAY
MUTUAL CONSENT? THAT SOUNDS STRANGE.
.....
ANYHOW, HE'S ELENA'S HUSBAND NOW. JUST LIKE YOU, I FEEL TERRIBLE, BUT WE CAN'T DO ANYTHING ABOUT IT.
I'VE LET THINGS SLIDE ENOUGH. I WON'T ALLOW THIS TO HAPPEN AGAIN.
ELENA AND JED MUST GET ALONG NOW, NOT JED AND NICOLE.

THIS IS THE END FOR THOSE TWO.

EACH MARK FEELS LIKE A PROMISE. IT'S EMBARRASSING! BUT...
I'M HAPPY.
THANK YOU, JED. NOW...

...I'LL BE ALRIGHT
KNOCK KNOCK
?
WHO'S THERE? I'M AFRAID MY STATE OF HEALTH WON'T ALLOW ME TO SEE ANYONE RIGHT NOW
WHERE HAS NANNY GONE? WHO COULD IT BE?
I'VE BROUGHT THE MEDICINE.
!
AH, ONE MOMENT.
(WASN'T NANNY SUPPOSE TO GET THAT?)
OPEN.

!
WHO?
I'M THE APOTHECARY. I'VE BROUGHT THE MEDICINE YOU REQUESTED.
OH, YES.
SHE'S THE REAL PRINCESS. WHEN WAS THE SWITCH MADE?
HE'S A BEAUTIFUL PERSON.



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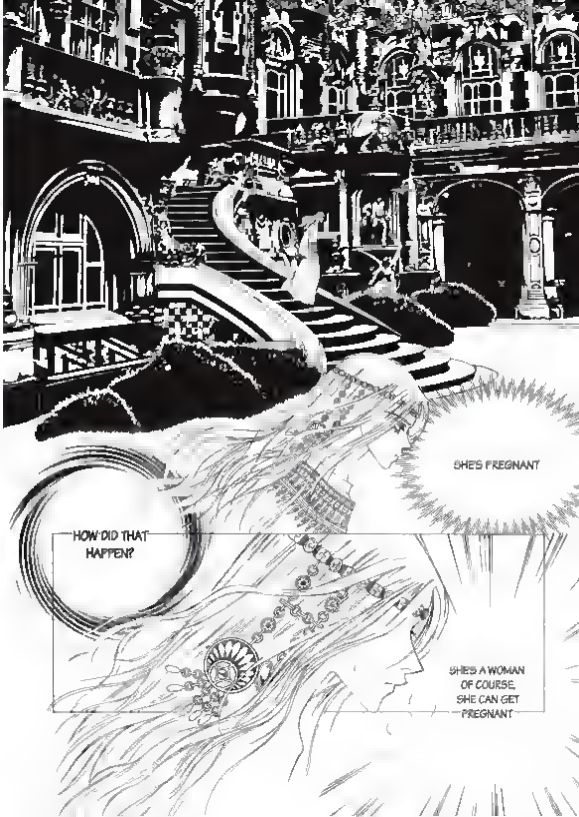
Boy Princess



A BABY!!
!
WHUM!
WHAT'S THE MATTER? I'VE NEVER SEEN YOU RUN LIKE A MAD MAN BEFORE.
?
!
I ASKED YOU WHAT THE MATTER IS.
IT'S BECAUSE OF YOU! BECAUSE OF YOU THAT I'VE...!

BECOME THIS MISERABLE SHELL OF A PERSON!
I'VE BECOME A DEAD BODY THAT I DON'T WANT TO BE!
HIM... AND YOU... I'LL NEVER FORGIVE EITHER OF YOU!!
BROTHER!
I'M SO GLAD YOU RETURNED!

HELLO, REINY. I TRUST THAT EVERYTHING IS WELL?
REINY?

BROTHER~! YOU LOOK HAPPY. DID SOMETHING SPECIAL HAPPEN TO YOU?
?
UMM, MY PRINCE,
WHAT IS IT?
THE...
THE PRINCESS HAS SOMETHING IMPORTANT TO DISCUSS WITH YOU
SHE ASKED IF YOU COULD STOP BY.

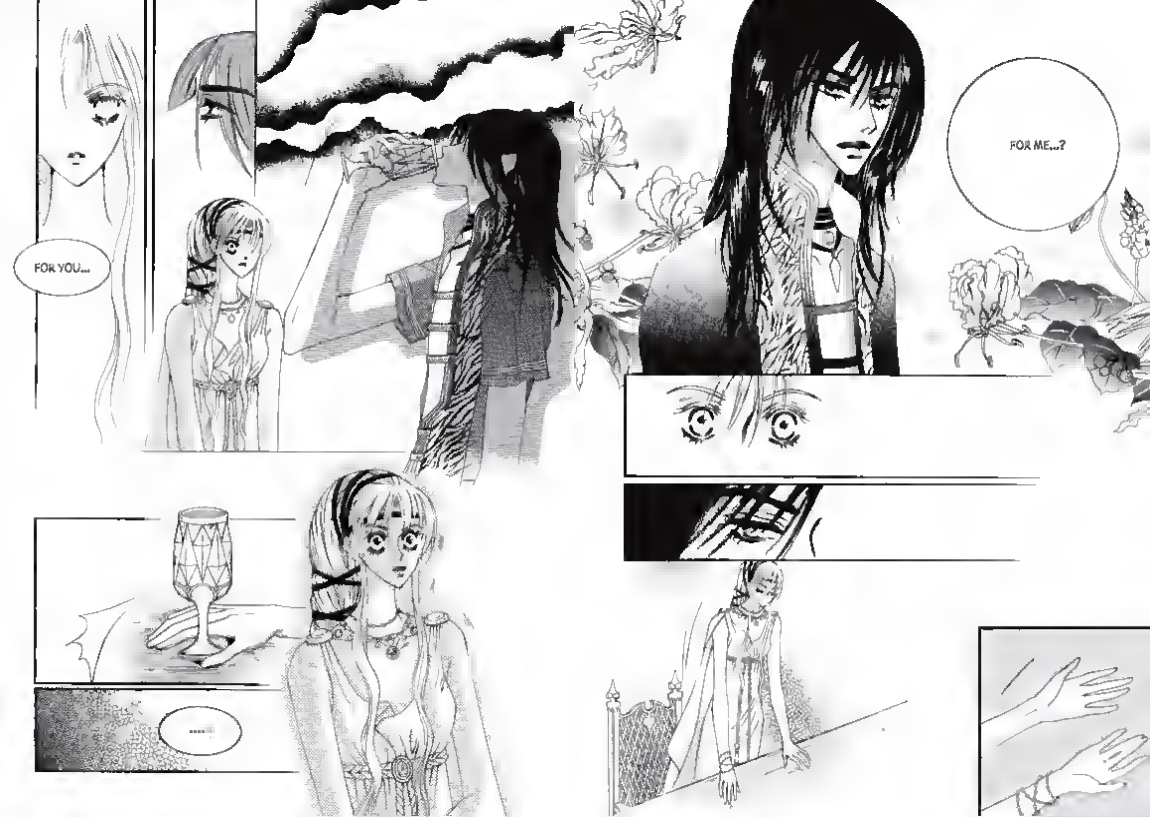
I SEE. I'LL COME BY IN THE EVENING.
YES, SIR.
BROTHER! DO YOU BY ANY CHANCE LIKE HER? OR ARE YOU TRYING TO LIKE HER?
WHAT KINDS OF PERVERSE IDEAS ARE YOU COOKING UP THIS TIME, REINY? I HOPE YOU'LL LEAVE HER ALONE.
BROTHER! THAT ISN'T WHAT I MEANT...
I'LL SEE YOU LATER.
HAS HE FORGOTTEN ABOUT THE BOY ALREADY? IS IT COMPLETELY OVER?
WELL, I'LL KNOW AFTER I MAKE THEM RUN INTO EACH OTHER A FEW MORE TIMES. GOOD. I'LL SEND THE MESSAGE SOON. IT'S TIME TO CARRY OUT MY PLAN!

IT'S PROBABLY A FOOLISH THING TO DO.
STILL, I CAN'T GIVE UP! IT'S MY BABY!
I'LL HAVE IT NO MATTER WHAT THE CONSEQUENCES ARE!

YOU WANTED TO SEE ME...
PRINCESS ELENA?

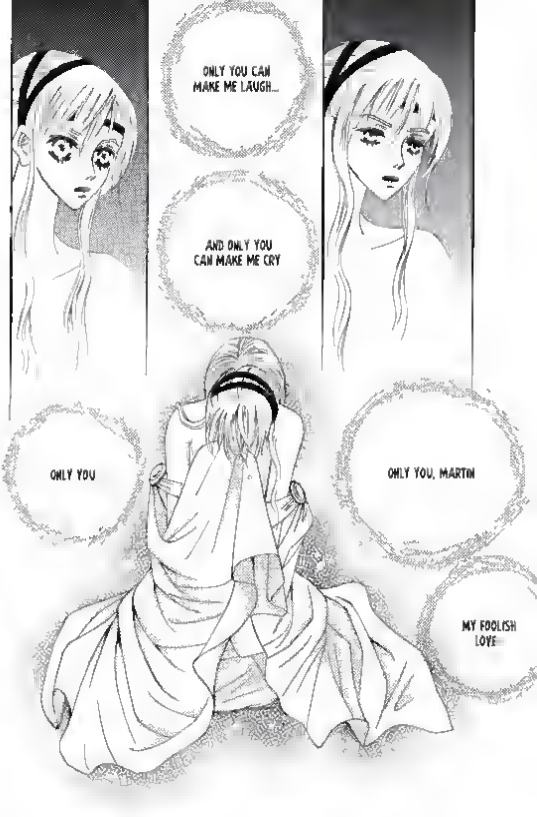
I HAVE A FAVOR TO ASK OF YOU.

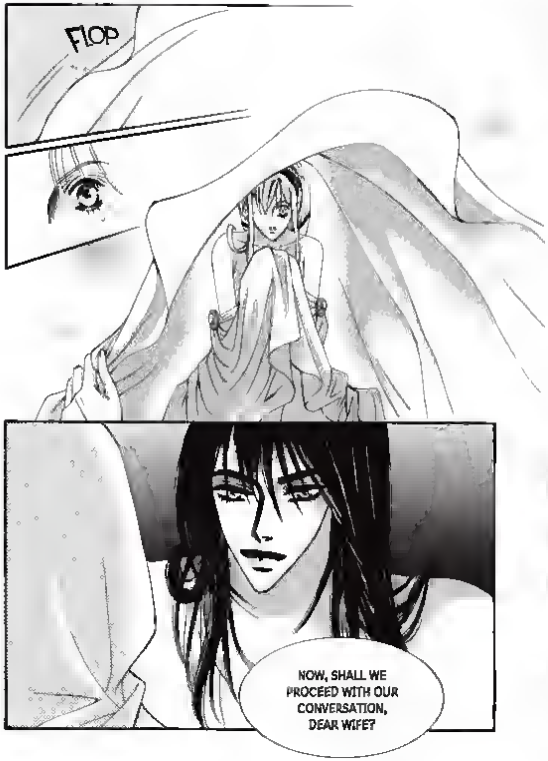
WHAT IS IT THAT YOU WANT TO ASK?

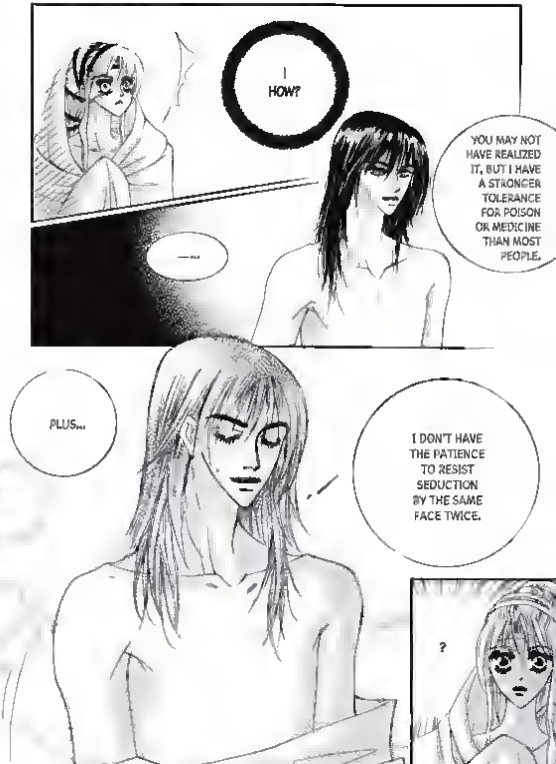

FOR YOU...
FOR ME...?
.....

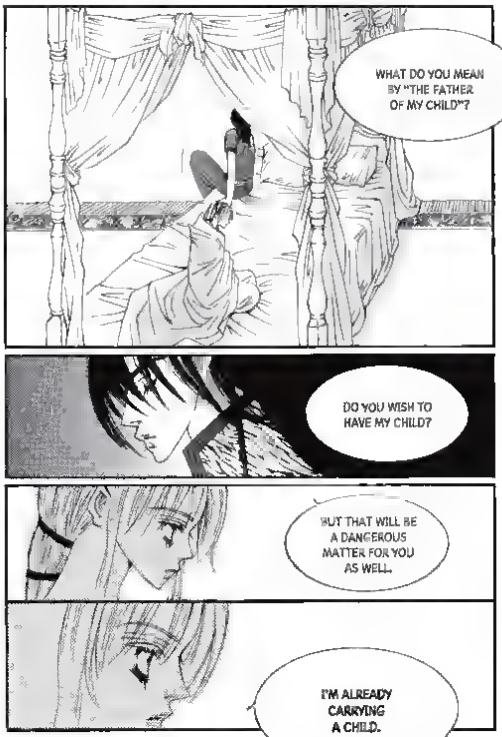
I ASK FOR YOU...
TO BE THE FATHER OF MY CHILD.

PRINCESS..
IS IT ALRIGHT TO HOLD YOU IN A PLACE THIS HUMBLE?
MARTIN MY FOOLISH LOVE...
ONLY YOU CAN MAKE ME FEEL EMBARRASSED OR BRAVE


ONLY YOU CAN MAKE ME LAUGH...
AND ONLY YOU CAN MAKE ME CRY
ONLY YOU
ONLY YOU, MARTIN
MY FOOLISH LOVE

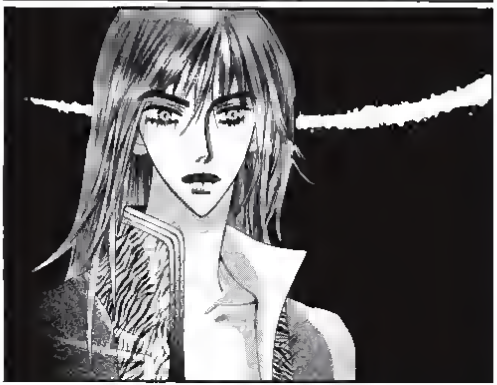

FLOP
NOW, SHALL WE PROCEED WITH OUR CONVERSATION, DEAR WIFE?


HOW?
YOU MAY NOT HAVE REALIZED IT, BUT I HAVE A STRONGER TOLERANCE FOR POISON OR MEDICINE THAN MOST PEOPLE.
PLUS...
I DON'T HAVE THE PATIENCE TO RESIST SEDUCTION BY THE SAME FACE TWICE.
?

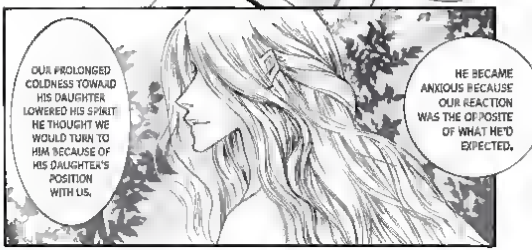

WHAT DO YOU MEAN BY "THE FATHER OF MY CHILD"?
DO YOU WISH TO HAVE MY CHILD?
BUT THAT WILL BE A DANGEROUS MATTER FOR YOU AS WELL.
I'M ALREADY CARRYING A CHILD.

!
IT'S FINE FOR YOU TO IGNORE ME AND NOT BE CONCERNED ABOUT ME. NO, YOU DON'T EVEN HAVE TO PROTECT ME.
AT ANY RATE, THIS WAS A MARRIAGE OF CONVENIENCE AND I TOO WILL HONOR MY DUTY AND PLAY MY PART.

SO PLEASE ALLOW ME TO HAVE THIS BABY. THIS WILL BE THE ONLY THING I'LL EVER ASK OF YOU.

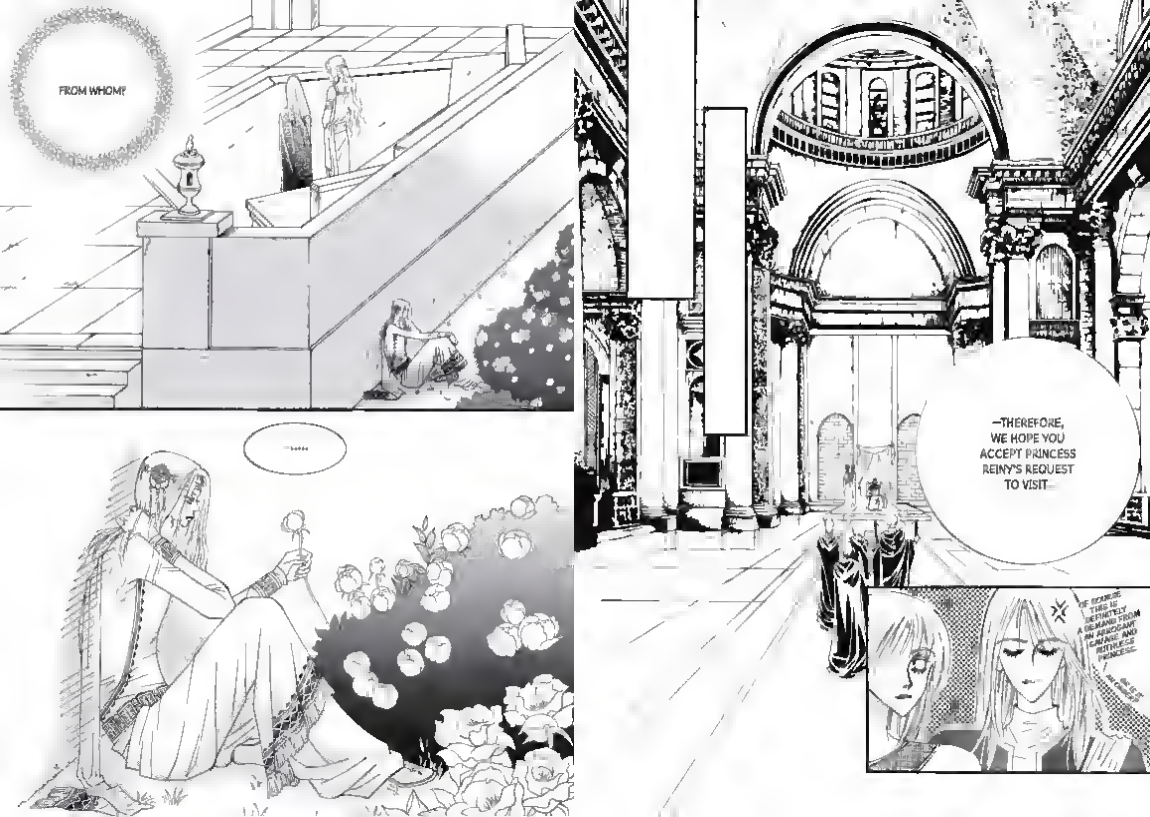


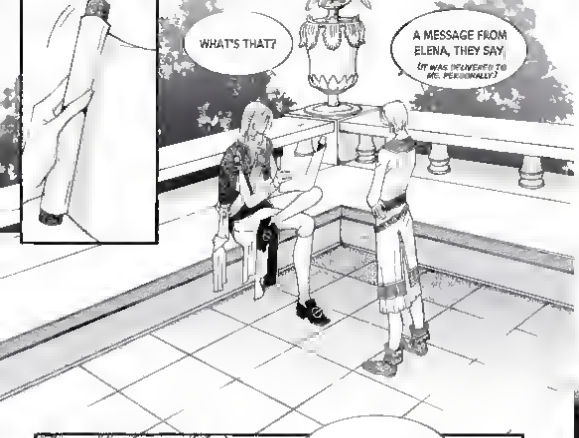
SO, HAVE YOU MET THE CROWN PRINCESS' FATHER?
YES, MOTHER.
WAS HE TRYING TO LEVERAGE YOU AGAINST PRINCE JED EVEN AFTER HANDING OVER HIS DAUGHTER TO JED?


OUR PROLONGED COLDNESS TOWARD HIS DAUGHTER LOWERED HIS SPIRIT. HE THOUGHT WE WOULD TURN TO HIM BECAUSE OF HIS DAUGHTER'S POSITION WITH US.
HE BECAME ANXIOUS BECAUSE OUR REACTION WAS THE OPPOSITE OF WHAT HE'D EXPECTED.

WELL DONE. AS LONG AS YOU HAVE THAT OLD MAN IN YOUR HANDS...
HE'LL BE INVALUABLE HELPING US TO DISPOSE OF JED'S POWERLESS AND NOISY SUPPORTERS WHO CLAIM THEY'RE FOLLOWING THE RIGHT CAUSE.
IF JED DEVELOPS A STRONG ENOUGH RELATIONSHIP WITH SOMEONE THAT HE'D TAKE ALONG EVEN ON BORDER PATROLS, I THINK SUCH A ONE IS SOMEONE WE MIGHT BE ABLE TO USE.
THAT WON'T BE ENOUGH. HE ISN'T THE TYPE TO WIGGLE UNLESS WE CUT OFF HIS ARMS AND LEGS.
AND REINY HAS NOW BECOME TOO DANGEROUS TO HANDLE CARELESSLY. WE NEED A SAFER AND BETTER STIMULANT THAN HER.

ON THE CONTRARY, WHAT IF YOU YOURSELF FALL FOR THAT SAME TRICK?
—THAT'S IMPOSSIBLE.
NO ONE CAN EVER EXERCISE SUCH STRONG INFLUENCE ON ME.
I SUPPOSE "NO ONE" ALSO INCLUDES ME.
YOU'RE DIFFERENT, BUT YOU WERE ALSO RAISED WELL.
—?
I AM DIFFERENT—


FROM WHOM?
—sorry.
—THEREFORE, WE HOPE YOU ACCEPT PRINCESS REINY'S REQUEST TO VISIT—
OF COURSE THIS IS DEFINITELY DEMAND FROM AN ARROGANT, DARING AND RUTHLESS PRINCESS.


WHAT'S THAT?
A MESSAGE FROM ELENA, THEY SAY.
IT WAS DELIVERED TO ME. PERSONALLY?

ACTUALLY, IT'S FROM HER NANNY.

AH-AH...
BROTHER!?
...
NICOLE.

GO AND GET NICOLE, JUNE.
I THINK WE'LL NEED HIM AGAIN